THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government believes that a permanent cessation of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan, in accordance with President Musharraf's public commitments in that regard on 12 January and 27 May, 2002 as also his pledge and assurances to the international community, would diffuse tensions and create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of meaningful dialogue with Pakistan. India and the United States have established a broad-based and high level of bilateral interaction, including in political and defence fields, in pursuit of the goal that Prime Minister and President Bush outlined in Washington D.C. in November, 2001 of completing the process of qualitatively transforming India—U.S. relations.

American delegations to New Delhi

236. DR. AKHILESH DAS :

DR. KARAN SINGH :

SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the past nine months as many as around sixty or so American high officials and politicians have visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether this shows a definite improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, especially in the context of cooperation in fighting international terrorism; and

(c) the details of these official visits and delegations and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and the United States have established a broad-based and high level of bilateral interaction in pursuit of the goal that Prime Minister and President Bush outlined in Washington D.C. in November, 2001 of completing the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations. These exchanges

have covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including the shared commitment to combat international terrorism.

(c) High level U.S. visitors to India from the United States since October 2001 include Secretary of State Colin Powell; Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; Administrator of the Environment Protection Agency Christine Whitman; Deputy Secretary of Treasury Kenneth Dam; Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers; Counter-terrorism Coordinator Ambassador Francis Taylor; Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Douglas Feith; Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky; U.S. Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad; Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca; and, a number of other senior officials of the U.S. Administration.

These visits have strengthened India-U.S. relations and deepened mutual understanding and cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Dismantling of a shopping complex on 'no man land' between India and Myanmar

237. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have requested the Myanmar authorities to dismantle a shopping complex on stretch of land adjacent to Moreh that falls within the "no man land" between India and Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether construction of the above complex is causing tension between the two countries; and

(c) what has been the response of Myanmar authorities in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) At the recently held national level meeting between India and Myanmar on July 10, 2002, Government of India raised the issue of a shopping complex recently constructed at Tamu which may be too close to the international boundary.